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## FINANCIAL SERVICES REPUBLICAN MORNING CLIPS 3.25.2010

Wall Street Journal: "Momentum Builds on Bid to Revamp Finance Rules ... The White House and Congressional Democrats are intensifying their push to overhaul financial regulation, buoyed by the enactment of health-care legislation and an acknowledgment by some top Republicans that the initiative is likely to pass."

Wall Street Journal: "Bank Launches Big Plan to Cut Mortgage Debt ... Under pressure by Massachusetts prosecutors, Bank of America Corp. said Wednesday it would reduce mortgage-loan balances as much as 30% for thousands of troubled borrowers, in what could presage a wider government effort to encourage banks to offer debt reduction to ease the mortgage crisis."

Wall Street Journal: "Fannie and Freddie Resist Loans for Energy Efficiency ... The government's mortgage-finance agencies Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac are resisting a White House-backed effort to make it easier for homeowners to get loans to make their houses more energy efficient."

Wall Street Journal: "Fed's Hoenig Backs More Diverse Financial System ... The U.S. economy would be better off with a system in which there are fewer big financial firms that were at the root of the recent crisis, a top Federal Reserve official signaled on Wednesday."

Washington Post: "BofA initiative may reduce mortgage balances of underwater homeowners ... Bank of America, the nation's largest mortgage lender, announced a program Wednesday that it said could reduce the mortgage balances of about 45,000 homeowners nationwide who owe significantly more than their homes are worth."

Washington Post: "Obama urges Democrats to make hard push on financial regulation ... President Obama and Democratic lawmakers moved Wednesday to accelerate their efforts at overhauling the nation's financial regulation, seeking to exploit divisions among Republicans over how much to compromise on a landmark bill now awaiting Senate action."

Washington Post: "Treasury's Geithner hopes China takes action on the devalued yuan currency ... Treasury Secretary Timothy F. Geithner said Wednesday that the United States "can't force" China to change its currency policies, as debate continues over whether the Obama administration will take action against Beijing as part of an assessment next month about how it sets its exchange rates."

Washington Post: "Consumer protection agency shouldn't be a bargaining chip ... The Post's suggestion that the proposed consumer financial protection bureau could be used as a bargaining chip to improve financial reform legislation is frightening ["Regulatory rewrite," editorial, March 18], given that even in its current form the bureau would lack the independence to protect consumers from the unsafe loan products that caused the financial crisis."

NY Times: "Behind Consumer Agency Idea, a Tireless Advocate ... Ask Elizabeth Warren, scourge of Wall Street bankers, how they treat consumers, and she will shake her head with indignation."

NY Times: "Unions Make Strides as They Attack Banks ... When the city of Los Angeles started looking into its complex financial contracts with banks earlier this year, some council members turned to an unusual corner for financial advice: labor unions."

NY Times: "Financial Overhaul Is Next Priority of Democrats ... Buoyed by passage of landmark health care legislation, the Obama administration and Democrats in Congress said Wednesday that an overhaul of financial regulations was the next legislative priority."

LA Times: "Obama official slams U.S. Chamber over opposition to financial overhaul ... Taking a newly defiant stance in its next major legislative battle, a top Obama administration official walked into the heart of the opposition Wednesday and accused the U.S. Chamber of Commerce of lying about what the sweeping regulatory overhaul of financial regulations would do."

USA Today: "Underwater mortgages drain equity, dampen retirement ... When Jennifer and David Wakefield bought their home at the end of 2005, they believed its value would rise. After all, the couple they'd bought it from made a \$100,000 profit in just three years."

The New Republic: "Trojan Horse ... Much of the controversy over financial regulatory reform has swirled around the proposal for a consumer financial protection agency."

Business Week: "Lessons from the Lehman Autopsy ... In 2008, Anton R. Valukas, a trial attorney in Chicago, published a four-page stiletto thrust of an essay entitled "Arrogance: My Favorite Sin."

Bloomberg: "John Mack's Short Story Was Too Dumb to Fail: Jonathan Weil ... Now that Lehman Brothers' bankruptcy examiner has put to rest any notion that short sellers caused the securities firm's collapse, it's time to revisit another narrative from Wall Street's propaganda machine: Whatever happened to the investigations of all those short sellers who supposedly drove Morgan Stanley and other banks to the brink?"

POLITICO: "GOP senators: Reg reform will pass ... The Obama administration's chances of achieving a bipartisan victory on financial reform increased dramatically Wednesday as two top Republicans acknowledged the legislation would pass the Senate and Democrats sought to harness the momentum of their health care win."

The Hill: "Democrats: Wall Street is next ... Democrats on Wednesday made financial reform their new top domestic priority, vowing to enact an overhaul of Wall Street this year and warning opponents not to stand in the way."

The Hill: "Regulatory Reform (March 2010)"